

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SAM-01 SAJ-01 IO-14 NIC-01 SR-02 ORM-03 EB-12

DRC-01 /136 W

----- 001592

R 041729Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5478

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USMISSION BERLIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 15735

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GW, PL

SUBJECT: FRG-POLISH RELATIONS

REFS: WARSAW 5473 AND 5932

1. AT MEETING ON OCTOBER 3, THE AMBASSADOR DISCUSSED
CURRENT STATE OF FRG-POLISH TALKS WITH FONOFF POLITICAL
DIRECTOR, VAN WELL. EMBOFF ALSO TALKED WITH POLISH
DESK OFFICER, ARNOT, ABOUT IMPLICATIONS OF GIEREK'S
REPLY TO SCHMIDT (REFTELS). BOTH FONOFF REPS
CONFIRMED THAT THE GIEREK LETTER WAS CONCILIATORY IN
TONE AND INDICATED A SERIOUS POLISH INTEREST IN
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GETTING BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS OFF OF THE DEAD CENTER

THEY HAVE BEEN ON FOR THE PAST SEVERAL MONTHS.

2. NEVERTHELESS, THE OUTLOOK FOR MOVEMENT REMAINS UNCERTAIN. GIEREK SAID THAT FUTURE NEGOTIATIONS SHOULD BE BASED ON THE PROPOSALS CONTAINED IN THE SO-CALLED FRELEK PAPER AND ALSO ON THE "POSITIVE RESULTS" OF THE TALKS HELD AT AN EARLIER STAGE (I.E. BEFORE THE FRELEK PAPER WAS DELIVERED TO THE THEN CHANCELLOR BRANDT.) ACCORDING TO VAN WELL, THE FONOFF INTERPRETS THIS LAST POINT TO MEAN THE STAGE THAT NEGOTIATIONS HAD REACHED IN DECEMBER 1973 WHEN THE BALANCE BETWEEN THE FRG CREDIT OFFER AND APPARENT POLISH WILLINGNESS TO PERMIT THE EMIGRATION OF 150,000 GERMANS OVER A PERIOD OF THREE YEARS SEEMED ROUGHLY ACCEPTABLE TO BOTH SIDES. UNCERTAINTY EXISTS BECAUSE THE FRG IS NOT IN A POSITION TO ENLARGE ITS FINANCIAL OFFER SUBSTANTIALLY AND BECAUSE IT IS NOT AT ALL CLEAR WHAT MORE THE POLES ARE NOW PREPARED TO DO ON THE EMIGRATION QUESTION.

3. THE FRG POSITION IS THAT ITS OFFER OF A DM 1 BILLION CREDIT AT CONCESSIONAL RATES STILL STANDS AND THAT IT MIGHT BE ABLE TO ENLARGE SOMEWHAT ITS PROPOSAL FOR A LUMP-SUM PENSIONS PAYMENT OF DM 500 MILLION. IT CONTINUES TO BE UNWILLING TO CONSIDER DIRECT INDEMNIFICATION PAYMENTS, EITHER AT THE "TOKEN LEVEL" OF DM 600 MILLION, AS SUGGESTED BY THE POLES, OR AT ANY OTHER LEVEL.

4. GIVEN THE RELATIVE RIGIDITY OF THIS POSITION, FONOFF REPS ARE NOT PARTICULARLY OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE PROSPECTS FOR GREATER POLISH GENEROSITY ON EMIGRATION. A RETURN TO THE 150,000 FIGURE WOULD APPEAR TO BE OUT OF THE QUESTION. ARNOT SAID THE FONOFF WAS GRADUALLY COMING TO THE CONCLUSION THAT IT WAS GOING TO HAVE TO ACCEPT A PARTIAL RATHER THAN COMPLETE SOLUTION TO THIS PROBLEM IN ANY CASE. HE INDICATED THAT THE FRG MIGHT BE ABLE TO ACCEPT A FIGURE IN

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 15735

THE VICINITY OF 100,000 IF THE AGREEMENT COULD BE
COUCHED IN SUFFICIENTLY OPEN-ENDED TERMS, I.E. IN
SUCH A WAY AS TO AVOID THE IMPLICATION THAT BOTH
SIDES REGARDED THE MATTER AS THEREBY CLOSED. THE
PROBLEM WAS THAT A DEFINITIVE SETTLEMENT WAS
PRECISELY WHAT THE POLES WANTED.

5. BOTH VAN WELL AND ARNOT CONFIRMED THAT THE
CHANCELLOR TOLD THE POLISH AMBASSADOR, WHEN HE
DELIVERED GIEREK'S LETTER, THAT THE FINANCIAL POSITION
IN THE FRG WAS NOT IMPROVING AND THAT IT MIGHT BECOME
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INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT TO MAKE THE CREDIT AVAILABLE.

6. THE POLES HAVE BEEN CARRYING THEIR COMPLAINTS ABOUT FRG RIGIDITY TO A NUMBER OF THE FRG'S ALLIES. ARNOT MENTIONED THAT OLSZOWSKI HAD RECENTLY SPENT 35 MINUTES OF A 45 MINUTE CONVERSATION WITH PM WILSON IN LONDON COMPLAINING ABOUT GERMAN BEHAVIOR. NEITHER VAN WELL NOR ARNOT DOUBTED THAT THE SUBJECT WOULD BE RAISED DURING GIEREK'S US VISIT NEXT WEEK. VAN WELL SAID HE HOPED THAT US REPS, IN REPLYING TO ANY SUCH POLISH PRESENTATION, WOULD EMPHASIZE THE "CENTRAL" IMPORTANCE THAT THE FRG ATTACHES TO ITS RELATIONSHIP TO POLAND AND AT THE SAME TIME POINT OUT THAT THE FRG POSITION ON EMIGRATION IS OF PREEMINENT POLITICAL IMPORTANCE HERE, BASED AS IT IS ON HUMANITARIAN CONSIDERATIONS. IN THIS CONNECTION, VAN WELL POINTED OUT THAT ECONOMIC CONSIDERATIONS WOULD, IF ANYTHING ARGUE FOR THE REVERSE POSITION, SINCE IT WAS DIFFICULT UNDER PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES FOR THE FRG ECONOMY TO ABSORB LARGE NUMBERS OF NEW PEOPLE SEEKING JOBS.
HILLENBRAND

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